REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) of Serial Number 10/032,554.

Claims 1-5 are canceled. Claims 6 and 7 are added and are supported by the original claims. Claims 6 and 7 are active in the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that Priestly does not teach or suggest the invention of Claims 6 and 7. Claim 6 is directed to a gas liquid contact plate including a plurality of straight rows, irregularities formed over both surfaces of the contact plate at equal intervals to a respective row such that adjacent rows have repeated irregularities opposite to each other, and openings in a peak and valley portion of the irregularities. The openings connect a front surface to a back surface between the adjacent rows and cover an area of 10-20% of the contact plate. Further, the irregularities include continuously smooth sinusoidal wave irregularities having a substantially opposite phase at the equal intervals.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 2 illustrates the irregularities including continuously smooth sinusoidal irregularities having a substantially opposite phase at the equal intervals. These continuously smooth sinusoidal wave irregularities can be easily formed because the contact plate according to the present invention is formed with a single pressing operation. Further, as shown in Figure 2, the adjacent rows are fluidly connected to each other because the contact plate is formed in a single pressing operation and the individual rows do not have to be connected to each other independently, but rather are fluidly connected to each other as they are formed via a single pressing operation.

In addition, as noted in the specification, because the openings formed in the contact plate cover an area of 10-20% of the contact plate, specific advantages are achieved in that a high wettability of the contact plate occurs. Further, a liquid drop flows through the opening so that the wetting can spread, because the contact plate has an open area of 10-20% of the

contact plate, which results in a higher efficiency (see page 4, line 15 to page 5, line 2 and page 13, lines 7-15). Further, according to the present invention, the liquid drop flows through the opening so that wetting can spread, because the gas-liquid contact plate has a specific rate of whole area as well as the specific construction. Accordingly, the gas-liquid contact efficiency is improved due to the wetting spread.

On the contrary, Priestly shows in Figure 2 irregularities having linking portions 1 for connecting adjacent curved portions (see column 3, lines 20-25). The effect of the linking portions 1 in the passage between the sheets A and B is to achieve by baffle action and flow diversion a small pressure drop in the vapor or gas flowing up the passage (see column 3, lines 42-45). Thus, Priestly specifically teaches using the inclined portions 1. The irregularities shown in Figures 5-7 also do not teach or suggest the claimed continuously smooth sinusoidal wave irregularities. Further, Priestly does not teach or suggest differences in gas liquid contact based on differences in the rate of hole area, with the resultant improved gas-liquid contact efficiency.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for examination on the merits. Such examination and early allowance of claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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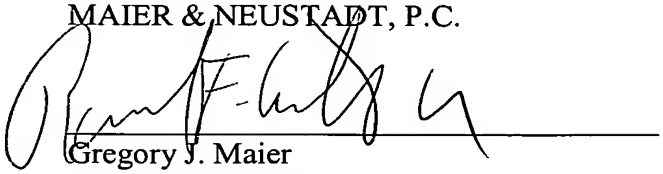

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